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30 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Developments During Your Absence

1. By letter of 18 December 1969 Chairmen Russell and Mahon informed Budget Director Mayo that the Agency appropriation

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2. We have succeeded in putting off Representative Donald Riegle's requested briefing on infiltration in Vietnam until after the new year. We still have no word on how the White House plans to handle Riegle's request for a general briefing by Kissinger's staff on the Vietnam situation, including infiltration.

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3. On 23 December I briefed Chairman Holifield of the Joint Committee on the substance of our CS report

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We cleared this in advance with AEC and State, but State was nervous over the political consequences in the event of a leak and insisted on sending Stuart Rockwell along to caution Holifield to handle the information discreetly. Holifield didn't take kindly to this--he pointed with pride to the Joint Committee's security record, and suggested that if Rockwell was worried about security he might look closer to home. As we departed, Rockwell didn't help matters much by expressing the hope that Holifield (who was about to depart for California) would find everything all right in Texas.

State Department review completed

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4. The Senate passed our Retirement bill on 22 December, and subsequent conversations with the Bureau of the Budget indicate that they foresee no problem regarding the President's early signature.

5. According to the press, Senator Stennis has appointed Senator Jackson to chair a special subcommittee to "follow the progress of the [SALT] negotiations as closely as possible." (Tab B) Other members of the subcommittee are Inouye, Harry Byrd, Margaret Chase Smith, Tower and Brooke. They will probably be calling on you when they get down to business. Feelings on the Hill, both pro and con, are pretty strong regarding the desirability and feasibility of a meaningful SALT agreement, and we are probably headed for a situation comparable to that during the nuclear test ban debates several years ago. Besides the Jackson subcommittee, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will no doubt be wanting to hear your views on SALT early in the year, and Senator Gore's Disarmament Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations will probably also get in the act. Happy New Year!

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6. In anticipation of requests for general situation briefings by various committees early in the year, [] has already called for contributions. (Tab C)

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